

Tribute to Women

Newsletter of Women Veterans of Nevada
February 2016 Volume 16, Issue 1



Inside This Issue

- 1 Member Information
- 2 WVON in the Community
- 3 WVON in the Community
- 4 House bill requires women to sign up for draft
- 5 Bases No Longer Accept IDs from Five States
- 5 Veterans Ask-A-Lawyer Program Calendar
- 6 Women Veterans Cruise 2017
- 7 Air Force's 1st female fighter pilot achieves another 1st at Nellis
- 8 2016 Retired Military Paydays
- 8 Minutes of General Meeting – 12 Dec 15

Additional information of interest to women vets is on our Facebook page. [Like](#) it while you're there.

The RTC now offers a Reduced Fare ID for veterans. To obtain yours, you must present valid NV ID and a DD-214, VA ID card or DOD ID card. With this ID, you can ride the bus for half the regular fare. You can also purchase bus passes for half price.

WVON Meeting

Saturday, February 20 at 10:30 am

Please RSVP if you are attending by Feb 17 to Bobi at 651-0253 or boates4616@aol.com.

This is for a headcount to ensure there are enough refreshments to go around.

Donations are encouraged to help cover the cost of refreshments.

WVON meetings are held the third Saturday of even numbered months at American Legion Post 8, 733 Veterans Memorial Dr, Las Vegas NV 89101 on the corner of Bonanza. Meeting information is posted on the WVON Facebook page under "Events" at <https://www.facebook.com/WomenVeteransofNevada>

Member & Friends Information

Dues for WVON Members and Friends of WVON are still only \$20 per year due in February.

To receive a paper copy of the newsletter by mail, dues must be paid current. E-Subscriptions are available to anyone who would like to receive it. Submit newsletter articles, pictures and subscription or membership application requests to WomenVeteransOfNevada@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Dec – WVON Ceremonial Team
Southern NV Veterans Cemetery, Boulder City
7 Dec - Pearl Harbor Day

12 - WVON General Meeting & Holiday Party
13 Dec - US National Guard birthday
25 Dec - Christmas
1 Jan - New Year's Day
18 Jan - Martin Luther King Day
1 Feb - Freedom Day

4, 11, 18, 25 Feb - WVON Ceremonial Team
Southern NV Veterans Cemetery, Boulder City
14 Feb - Valentine's Day
15 Feb - President's Day

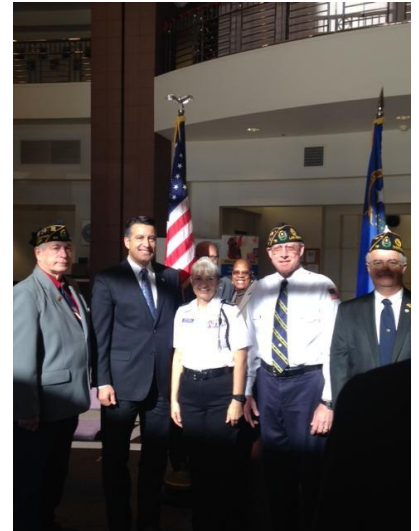
20 Feb - WVON General Meeting

Also check the WVON Facebook page for other events at <https://www.facebook.com/WomenVeteransofNevada>

The mission of the Women Veterans of Nevada is to bring together women of all branches and eras of military service; inactive, reserve and active duty, to share and celebrate the history of military women, preserve and perpetuate our positive heritage and continue an active commitment to educate, aid and assist comrades and community.

WVON in the Community

Bobi Oates - Nevada Veteran of the Month – December 2015



DAV Life Member and WVON Member, Roberta “Bobi” Pike-Oates, was recognized by the state of Nevada as its Veteran of the Month in December for her active involvement in the Nevada Women Veterans Advisory Committee.

WVON Raises Funds by Wrapping Gifts at Nellis BX for Christmas Shoppers



Our Fearless Leader, Members, and WVON Friends all pitched in to raise money for our community projects.



WVON in the Community



Many WVON members also belong to MWAN and attended their Christmas party.



WVON president, Cindy Edmonson, presented a check to Cadie Andrews, Fisher House Manager. The dedication will take place February 11 at 11 am.

WVON Christmas Party

All pictures from the party on our Facebook page. This is just a small sample.



House bill requires women to sign up for draft

By [Travis J. Tritten](#)

Stars and Stripes

Published: February 4, 2016

WASHINGTON — Two House Republicans introduced a bill Thursday requiring eligible women in the United States to sign up for the military draft, just days after it was recommended by the Marine Corps and Army.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a Marine veteran, and Rep. Ryan Zinke, R-Minn., a retired Navy SEAL, filed the Draft American's Daughters Act to stoke debate over the military's historic move to fully integrate female troops into all combat roles. If passed, women from 18-26 years old would for the first time have to join men in registering with the Selective Service program and potentially be forced to fight in future wars.

"If this administration wants to send 18, 20-year-old women into combat, to serve and fight on the front lines, then the American people deserve to have this discussion through their elected representatives," Hunter said in a released statement.

On Tuesday, Marine Commandant Gen. Robert Neller and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley testified to the Senate that they believe there no longer should be an exemption in the draft for half of the country's population now that the military is all inclusive.

The Marines and Army, along with the other service branches, were ordered by Defense Secretary Ash Carter to open about 225,000 combat jobs to women candidates – the last remaining occupational specialties that had barred female troops.

The decision was made despite research and reservations from the Marine Corps and special operations community, and without adequate debate among lawmakers, according to the two congressmen sponsoring the bill.

"My daughter is a damn good Navy diver. I know women play an invaluable role in war. Many times women can gain access to strategic sites that men never could," Zinke said in a released statement.

"However, this administration's plan to force all front-line combat and Special Forces to integrate women into their units is reckless and dangerous."

The Marines completed a study last summer that found women get injured more often and perform below males in combat. During an oversight hearing in the Senate on Tuesday, lawmakers repeatedly referenced the study and said they are worried the military could lower standards to accommodate more women in combat occupational specialties.

Zinke said the decision now means the country must contemplate changes to the draft. His bill requires women to register beginning 90 days after it is signed into law.

"This is a very important issue that touches the heart of every family in America, and I believe we need to have an open and honest discussion about it," Zinke said.

Men, who historically filled combat roles, are required to register with Selective Service when they turn 18 years old in case a draft is again needed. The Supreme Court had in the past backed the exemption for women, but only because they were not expected to fill crucial combat ranks.

Millions of women might now suddenly and unexpectedly be required to register due to the Pentagon decision on combat roles.

Neller, who initially requested exemptions for women in some combat positions, said he thinks it is fair that women now face being called up to wartime service.

"Every American that is physically qualified should register for the draft," said Neller, who had requested but was denied the exclusion of women in some Marine combat jobs.

Bases No Longer Accept IDs from Five States

Week of January 25, 2016

If you're used to obtaining a visitor's pass to go on Nellis AFB or other military installations, you need to be aware that U.S. military installations are no longer allowing visitors to gain base access using official ID cards from five states — and other installations may soon follow. State-issued driver's licenses and identification cards from **Illinois, New Mexico, Missouri, Washington and Minnesota** can no longer be used to obtain a visitor's pass because those cards don't comply with federal standards, officials said.



VETERANS ASK-A-LAWYER PROGRAM

Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada staff attorneys and pro bono attorneys will provide **FREE** 15-minute consultations to veterans in all areas of law.

Consultations will be offered from

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

at **VA Community Resource and Referral Center**

on the following dates:

Friday, February 12, 2016

Friday, March 11, 2016

Friday, April 8, 2016

Friday, May 13, 2016

Friday, June 10, 2016

Friday, July 8, 2016

Friday, August 12, 2016

Friday, September 9, 2016

Friday, October 14, 2016

Friday, November 4, 2016

Friday, December 2, 2016

Register by phone at (702) 791-9077 or in person at:

VA Community Resource and Referral Center (CCRC)

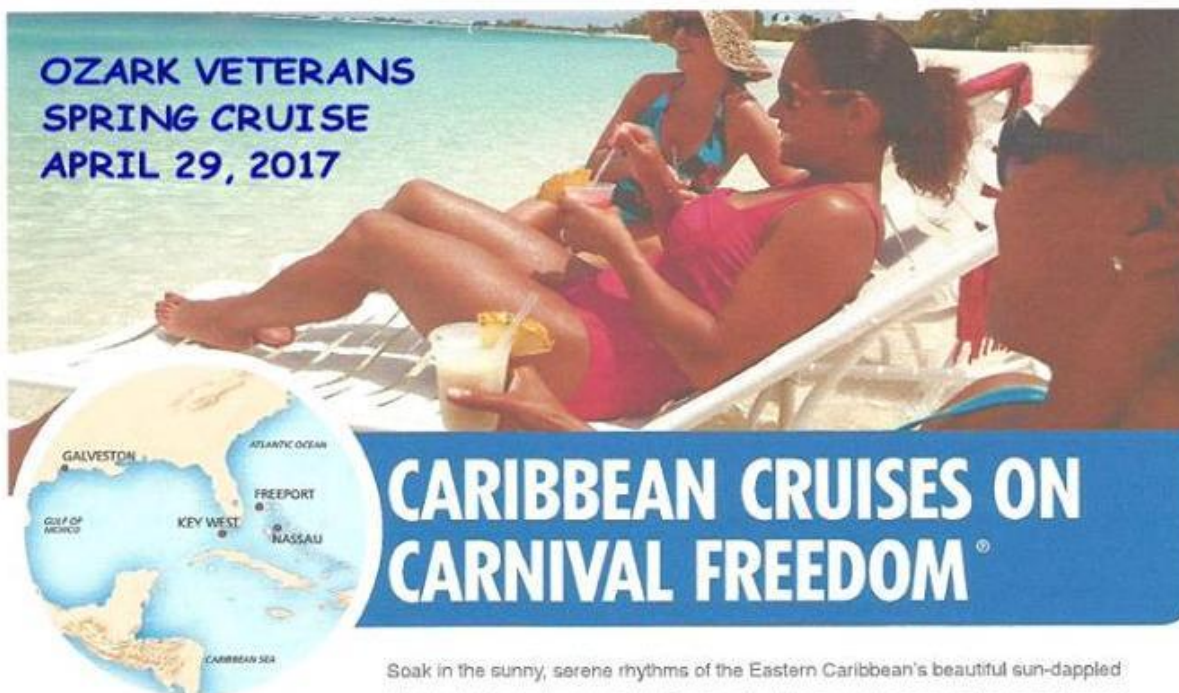
916 West Owens Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89106

www.lacsn.org

Women Veterans Cruise 2017

This cruise will have women veterans from all over the country even though it was originally organized by women veterans in Arkansas. Email or call Mary for more details. She drives a school bus so call before 8 pm CST. She responds quickly to emails and voice messages. A deposit is required to make your reservation, but you can make payments as long as all payments are completed by February 2017. All meals and tips are included. Service dogs with proof of all shots are permitted.



7 DAY EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
1	Galveston, TX		4:00 p.m.
2	"Fun Day" at Sea		
3	Key West, FL	10:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
4	Freeport	8:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
5	Nassau	7:00 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
6	"Fun Day" at Sea		
7	"Fun Day" at Sea		
8	Galveston, TX	8:00 a.m.	

Your departure date:
April 29, 2017

The port of call as well as the sequence, time and/or day may change. For the most current itineraries and terms and conditions related to your cruise, please contact your travel professional for details.



Soak in the sunny, serene rhythms of the Eastern Caribbean's beautiful sun-dappled islands. A Carnival cruise to the Eastern Caribbean sails to some of the region's most storied isles, each ringed by rainbow-hued coral gardens. Dig your feet in silky sand, float in azure seas, and let your cares melt away in the Eastern Caribbean.

INTERIOR	OCEAN VIEW	BALCONY
From \$489*	From \$599*	From \$779*

Cruise rates are in U.S. dollars, per person and based on double occupancy. Taxes, fees and Port Expenses range from \$40.44 to \$222.00, and are assessed on a per guest basis for all guests according to the itinerary. Offer is non-transferable, and has no cash value. Category restrictions and exclusions are subject to change and subject to change without prior notice. Offer is not combinable with any other discount or promotion, valid for new bookings only. Ship's Registry: The Bahamas, Panama & MEX.

*** per person**

Please come join the
Ozark Veterans
on a Spring Cruise!

Spring Chicken Travel

Mary H. Pinkley
marypinkley@springchicken.com
479.212.1028
32 Mission Hills Lane
Eureka Springs, Ar. 72631



Air Force's 1st female fighter pilot achieves another 1st at Nellis

By Keith Rogers

Las Vegas Review-Journal



Col. Jeannie M. Leavitt has been selected for promotion to brigadier general to command the 57th Wing, Air Combat Command at Nellis Air Force Base. She is currently principal military assistant to the secretary of defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense at the Pentagon.

Keeping in lockstep with the Pentagon's direction to open all positions, including combat roles, to women, Nellis Air Force Base will also break the gender barrier this year in its command leadership.

Base officials confirmed Tuesday that Col. Jeannie M. Leavitt will join the ranks of the base's top brass by taking the reins of the 57th Wing, becoming the highest-ranking female officer to command at Nellis.

"We look forward to her leadership here," Nellis public affairs officer Maj. Teresa Sullivan said.

She noted that command leadership positions at Nellis have always been open to women, but this is the first time that a woman will command the 57th Wing. She was selected because she was the most qualified for the position, Sullivan said.

Selected for the rank of brigadier general, she will command the wing, which manages all flying operations at the base, including Red Flag and Green Flag air combat training exercises. The 57th Wing also runs the graduate-level U.S. Air Force Weapons School, oversees the world-renowned Thunderbirds air demonstration team and supports the Air Force Warfare Center's test-and-evaluation activities.

Leavitt, who became the Air Force's first female fighter pilot in 1993, currently serves as Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter's principal military assistant at the Pentagon. Attempts to reach her Tuesday through a duty officer at the Office of the Secretary of Defense were unsuccessful because of closures in Washington, D.C., due to this week's heavy snowfall.

She is an F-15 pilot whose flight hours include 300 in combat, mostly over Afghanistan and Iraq but also in Operation Southern Watch in the Middle East, where she helped thwart an Iraqi surface-to-air threat against a United Kingdom aircraft in 1996.

Her selection for brigadier general was announced Jan. 21 by the Pentagon along with promotions that affect the two-year rotation in leadership at Nellis.

2016 Retired Military Paydays falls on a weekend or holiday, the retired military paydays are on the first business day of each month unless that day is a weekend or holiday. Military retirement pay is paid *in arrears*, which means it is paid in the month after it is earned (just like most regular paychecks.) For example, the payment made on the first of February is for the retirement month of January, and will reflect any activity (taxes, allotments, deductions) that occurred in January. Keep in mind that the payday may actually happen at the end of the month for which it is paid if the first of the following month is a weekend or holiday.

Therefore, the retired military paydays for 2016 are:

Monday, 1 February 2016
Tuesday, 1 March 2016
Friday, 1 April 2016
Friday, 29 April 2016
Wednesday, 1 June 2016
Friday, 1 July 2016
Monday, 1 August 2016
Thursday, 1 September 2016
Friday, 30 September 2016
Tuesday, 1 November 2016
Thursday, 1 December 2016
Friday, 30 December 2016

Many military-friendly financial institutions deposit military retirement pay before the actual payday as a benefit to their customers (and a way to entice customers to change to them!) As a result, your retirement pay deposits may happen earlier than the actual payday. Check with your bank or credit union for more information about their deposit policies.

Keep in mind that there is no set time for pay deposits to occur, and they may happen at any time of the day. Even if your bank or credit union has a pattern of posting pay at a certain time, it may vary from month to month. Don't panic if your pay isn't deposited at the exact time that you expect.

Women Veterans of Nevada General Meeting Minutes/Holiday Party December 12/12/2015

10:46 Meeting called to order, Pledge of Allegiance, Mission Statement and Invocation. All Board members present except past President Jo Cantrell. Also Billie D'Entremont is in the hospital, our get well wishes go out to her for a quick recovery.

Congratulations to one of our own members Bobi Oates for winning December Veteran of the Month 2015 presented by Governor Brian Sandoval.

Next meeting to discuss how WVON funds are generated to the general membership.

Dixie Thompson - Mention WVON at the Dinosaurs & Roses thrift shop and 20% of your purchase will go to WVON.

50/50 drawing won by Gerda Schewe for \$82.00 and generously donated \$40 back to WVON.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the adorable Military Branch stuffed Bears!!

A Big Thank You to Bobi Oates for putting on a fabulous spread of food and treats and to all who participated in making our party the best celebration ever, we thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Meeting adjourned 11:15 am

Michele Kenyon
WVON Secretary